

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

### **List of claims:**

1. (Currently Amended): A rubber composition for a tire tread comprising from 0.5 to 12 parts by weight of paper relative to 100 parts by weight of a rubber component, and paper having a width of 5 mm or less.

2. (Original): The rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein said paper is newspaper waste.

3. (Currently Amended): The rubber composition according to claim 1, further comprising from 10 to 100 parts by weight of carbon black relative to 100 parts by weight of the rubber component, said carbon black having a specific surface area by nitrogen adsorption (BET method) of from 40 to 160 m<sup>2</sup>/g, a DBP adsorption of from 70 to 130 ml/100g and an iodine adsorption value of 70 to 130 mg/g.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended): A rubber composition for a tire tread comprising from 0.5 to 12 parts by weight of paper and from 5 to 100 parts by weight of silica relative to 100 parts by weight of a rubber component, said paper being cut into pieces having a width of 5 mm or less and said silica having a specific surface area by nitrogen adsorption (BET) of 50 to 350 m<sup>2</sup>/g.

6. (Currently Amended): The rubber composition for a tire tread according to claim 5, further comprising from 10 to 100 parts by weight of carbon black relative to 100 parts by weight of the rubber component, said carbon black having a specific surface area by nitrogen adsorption (BET method) of from 40 to 160 m<sup>2</sup>/g, a DBP adsorption of from 70 to 130 ml/100g and an iodine adsorption value of 70 to 130 mg/g.

7. (Currently Amended): The rubber composition for a tire tread according to claim 5, further comprising a silane coupling agent.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended): A rubber composition for a tire tread comprising from 0.5 to 12 parts by weight of paper, from 5 to 100 parts by weight of silica, and from 2 to 15 parts by weight of short fiber relative to 100 parts by weight of a rubber component, said paper being cut into pieces having a width of 5 mm or less and said silica having a specific surface area by nitrogen adsorption (BET) of 50 to 350 m<sup>2</sup>/g.

10. (Currently Amended): The rubber composition for a tire tread according to claim 9, further comprising from 3 to 15 parts by weight of a powder product containing a cellulose material relative to 100 parts by weight of the rubber component.

11. (Currently Amended): A pneumatic tire comprising the rubber composition for a tire tread according to claims 9 also disposed in a tread portion and/or a bead apex.

12. (New) The rubber composition for a tire tread according to claim 1 wherein the paper is in a muddy state of low concentration containing 3% or less of a solid component.

13. (New) The rubber composition for a tire tread according to claim 5 wherein the paper is in a muddy state of low concentration containing 3% or less of a solid component.

14. (New) The rubber composition for a tire tread according to claim 9 wherein the paper is in a muddy state of low concentration containing 3% or less of a solid component.